

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 982

By Finney

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Cecil B. Howard, M.D., on his fifty years of outstanding service to the people of Blount County and the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee should honor those estimable persons who, because of their professional and personal endeavors, are a credit to their families, their communities, and to the State; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cecil B. Howard of Blount County is one such outstanding person; he has practiced pediatric medicine in Blount County for fifty years and has recently announced that he will be taking a very much-deserved retirement on August 1, 2006; and

WHEREAS, raised in the coal fields of Eastern Kentucky, young Cecil B. Howard was inspired by his parents, Maggie Cawood Howard, a schoolteacher, and W.K. Howard, M.D., a family physician who practiced medicine in the coal fields. Because of his admiration for his father as both a man and a physician, Cecil desired to become a physician; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Vanderbilt University, Cecil B. Howard earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1949, and obtained his Doctorate of Medicine from Vanderbilt in 1953; he completed his internship at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, in 1953-54, and his residency in Pediatrics at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 1954-1956; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, Dr. Cecil B. Howard relocated to Maryville, Tennessee, and joined the staff of Blount Memorial Hospital in August. For the next fifty years he would continuously practice pediatrics in Blount County, providing quality healthcare and sharing his exemplary medical skills with generations of area residents; and

WHEREAS, certified in Pediatrics by the American Board of Pediatrics, Dr. Howard is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and over the years has enjoyed staff privileges at Blount Memorial Hospital, Maryville; the University of Tennessee Medical Center, Knoxville; and East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Knoxville. From 1964-2002, he served on the Child Abuse Review Committee of the Blount County Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, admired and respected by his colleagues, Dr. Howard served as the President of the Blount County Medical Society in 1973, as Secretary of the Medical Staff at Blount Memorial Hospital from 1959-1963, and as Chairman of the Pediatrics Department several times throughout his career; and

WHEREAS, an active member of his community, Dr. Howard is a longtime member of the Maryville Optimist Club, serving as its President in 1973, and has volunteered for many years with the Boy Scouts of America; he served as cub master and scoutmaster from 1964-1979 and as Chairman of the Tuckaleechee District of the Great Smoky Mountain Council (Blount and Sevier Counties) of the Boy Scouts of America from 1973-1975; and

WHEREAS, a deeply spiritual gentleman whose faith and love for God is evinced in his every word and action, Dr. Howard has been a faithful member of First Christian Church of Maryville for many years, serving as an Elder from 1960-2002, and today still rotates as the church's pianist; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Howard enjoys the love and companionship of his devoted wife of fifty-three years, Rebekah Buckley Howard, and they are the proud parents of three successful children, Mark B. Howard, a minister in New Mexico, Sally Truxal, a licensed practical nurse in Virginia, and Maggie Ray, who serves as Dr. Howard's office manager; and the doting grandparents of nine grandchildren and one soon-to-be-born great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents who enjoys hiking, reading, and playing the piano, Dr. Cecil Howard has captured the hearts of patients with his caring way, his kindness, and his dedication to their personal well-being, and he will be greatly missed upon his retirement; and

WHEREAS, with plans to trade his stethoscope for a Bible, Dr. Howard looks forward to spending more time with his children and grandchildren and participating in a ministry in his

church, for which he will visit individuals in hospitals and nursing homes to offer comfort and prayers for healing through the Great Physician Jesus the Christ; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Howard truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated physician who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality healthcare for all, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Dr. Cecil B. Howard for his fifty years of exceptional medical service to the good people of Blount County and the State of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him a happy, fulfilling retirement and continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.